

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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FRANK BRANDON,

**COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff,

**07 CV 8789 (LAP)**

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

-against-

**ECF CASE**

THE CITY OF NEW YORK, P.O. SAID SALIM, Shield No. 09517, Individually and in his Official Capacity, P.O. ANDRO STAMBUK, Shiled No. 28510, Individually and in his Official Capacity P.O. MARC KLAUSNER, Shiled No. 01983, Individually and in his Official Capacity, P.O.s "JOHN DOE" #1-10, Individually and in their Official Capacities, (the name John Doe being fictitious, as the true names are presently unknown),

Defendants.

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Plaintiff, FRANK BRANDON, by his attorney, Jon L. Norinsberg, complaining of the defendants, respectfully alleges as follows:

**PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

1. Plaintiff brings this action for compensatory damages, punitive damages and attorney's fees pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and 42 U.S.C. § 1988 for violations of his civil rights, as said rights are secured by said statutes and the Constitutions of the State of New York and the United States.

**JURISDICTION**

2. This action is brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and 42 U.S.C. § 1988, and the First, Fourth, Fifth, Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution.

3. Jurisdiction is founded upon 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1343 and 1367.

**VENUE**

4. Venue is properly laid in the Southern District of New York under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), in that this is the District in which the claim arose.

**JURY DEMAND**

5. Plaintiff respectfully demands a trial by jury of all issues in this matter pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 38(b).

**PARTIES**

6. Plaintiff is an African-American male and was at all relevant times a resident of the City and State of New York.

7. Defendant, the City of New York, was and is a municipal corporation duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of New York.

8. Defendant, the City of New York, maintains the New York City Police Department, a duly authorized public authority and/or police department, authorized to perform all functions of a police department as per the applicable sections of the New York State Criminal Procedure Law, acting under the direction and supervision of the aforementioned municipal corporation, the City of New York.

9. At all times hereinafter mentioned, the individually named defendants, P.O. SAID SALIM, P.O. ANDRO STAMBUK, P.O. MARC KLAUSNER and P.O.s “JOHN DOE” #1-10, were duly sworn police officers of said department and were acting under the supervision of said department and according to their official duties.

10. At all times hereinafter mentioned, the defendants, either personally or through their employees, were acting under color of state law and/or in compliance with the official rules, regulations, laws, statutes, customs, usages and/or practices of the State or City of New York.

11. Each and all of the acts of the defendants alleged herein were done by said

defendants while acting within the scope of their employment by defendant City of New York.

12. Each and all of the acts of the defendants alleged herein were done by said defendants while acting in furtherance of their employment by defendant City of New York.

### **FACTS**

13. On September 3, 2006, at approximately 2:40 a.m., plaintiff FRANK BRANDON was lawfully in the vicinity of 2228 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, in the County, City and State of New York.

14. Plaintiff FRANK BRANDON was on his way to a local store to purchase pampers for his infant son.

15. At the aforesaid time and place, plaintiff FRANK BRANDON was suddenly accosted by several members of the New York City Police Department.

16. Defendants grabbed plaintiff FRANK BRANDON and forcibly tackled him to the ground.

17. Defendants then conducted an unlawful search FRANK BRANDON, looking inside of his pockets for narcotics and/or other contraband.

18. Defendants did not recover crack-cocaine or any other controlled substance from plaintiff FRANK BRANDON.

19. Defendant officers did not recover any pre-recorded buy money from plaintiff FRANK BRANDON.

20. Notwithstanding the lack of any incriminating evidence against plaintiff FRANK BRANDON, defendant officers refused to release him and instead continued to process his arrest.

21. Thereafter, defendants charged plaintiff FRANK BRANDON with committing multiple drug-related offenses, including Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree and Fifth Degree.

22. At no time on September 3, 2006 did plaintiff FRANK BRANDON ever possess, buy, or sell crack-cocaine, or any other controlled substance, to any officer of the New York City Police Department, or to any third person.

23. In connection with this arrest, defendants filled out false and misleading police reports and forwarded these reports to prosecutors in the New York County District Attorney's office.

24. Thereafter, defendants gave false and misleading testimony regarding the facts and circumstances surrounding the arrest of plaintiff FRANK BRANDON.

25. As a result of this unlawful arrest, plaintiff FRANK BRANDON spent approximately three (3) months in jail, and was required to make multiple court appearances to defend himself against the false charges which defendants had filed against him.

26. Notwithstanding defendants' unlawful and perjurious conduct, on April 30 , 2007, all charges against plaintiff FRANK BRANDON were dismissed by the Honorable Roger Hayes.

27. As a result of the foregoing, plaintiff sustained, inter alia, loss of liberty, emotional distress, embarrassment and humiliation and deprivation of his constitutional rights.

**FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**DEPRIVATION OF FEDERAL CIVIL RIGHTS UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 1983**

28. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and realleges each and every allegation contained in paragraphs numbered "1" through "27" with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.

29. All of the aforementioned acts of defendants, their agents, servants and employees were carried out under the color of law.

30. All of the aforementioned acts deprived plaintiff FRANK BRANDON of the rights, privileges and immunities guaranteed to citizens of the United States by the First, Fourth, Fifth, Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States of America, and

in violation of 42 U.S.C. §1983.

31. The acts complained of were carried out by the aforementioned individual defendants in their capacities as police officers, with all the actual and/or apparent authority attendant thereto.

32. The acts complained of were carried out by the aforementioned individual defendants in their capacities as police officers, pursuant to the customs, usages, practices, procedures, and rules of the City of New York and the New York City Police Department, all under the supervision of ranking officers of said department.

33. Defendants, collectively and individually, while acting under color of state law, engaged in conduct which constituted a custom, usage, practice, procedure or rule of his/her respective municipality/authority, which is forbidden by the Constitution of the United States.

**SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**FALSE ARREST UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 1983**

34. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and realleges each and every allegation contained in paragraphs numbered "1" through "33" with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.

35. As a result of defendants' aforementioned conduct, plaintiff FRANK BRANDON was subjected to an illegal, improper and false arrest by the defendants and taken into custody and caused to be falsely imprisoned, detained, confined, incarcerated and prosecuted by the defendants in criminal proceedings, without any probable cause, privilege or consent.

36. As a result of the foregoing, plaintiff's liberty was restricted for an extended period of time, and he was put in fear for his safety, was humiliated and subjected to handcuffing, and other physical restraints, without probable cause.

**THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**UNLAWFUL SEARCH UNDER 42 U.S.C.§ 1983**

37. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and realleges each and every allegation contained in paragraphs numbered "1" through "36" with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.
38. Defendants strip-searched plaintiff FRANK BRANDON in the absence of any individualized reasonable suspicion that plaintiff was concealing weapons or contraband.
39. As a result of the foregoing, plaintiff FRANK BRANDON was subjected to an illegal and improper strip-search.

40. The foregoing unlawful cavity search and strip-search violated plaintiff FRANK BRANDON's constitutional right to privacy, as guaranteed by the Fourth, Fifth, and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution.

**FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**MALICIOUS PROSECUTION UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 1983**

41. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and realleges each and every allegation contained in paragraphs numbered "1" through "40" with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.
42. Defendants misrepresented and falsified evidence before the District Attorney.
43. Defendants did not make a complete and full statement of facts to the District Attorney.
44. Defendants withheld exculpatory evidence from the District Attorney.
45. Defendants misrepresented and falsified evidence before the Grand Jury.
46. Defendants did not make a complete and full statement of facts to the Grand Jury.
47. Defendants withheld exculpatory evidence from the Grand Jury.
48. Defendants were directly and actively involved in the initiation of criminal proceedings against Mr. Brandon.

49. Defendants lacked probable cause to initiate criminal proceedings against Mr. Brandon.

50. Defendants acted with malice in initiating criminal proceedings against Mr. Brandon.

51. Defendants were directly and actively involved in the continuation of criminal proceedings against Mr. Brandon.

52. Defendants lacked probable cause to continue criminal proceedings against Mr. Brandon.

53. Defendants acted with malice in continuing criminal proceedings against Mr. Brandon.

54. Defendants misrepresented and falsified evidence throughout all phases of the criminal proceedings.

55. Notwithstanding the perjurious and fraudulent conduct of defendants, the criminal proceedings were terminated in Mr. Brandon's favor on April 30, 2007, when all charges against him were dismissed.

56. As a result of the foregoing, plaintiff's liberty was restricted for an extended period of time, and he was put in fear for his safety, was humiliated and subjected to handcuffing, and other physical restraints, without probable cause.

**FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**MALICIOUS ABUSE OF PROCESS UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 1983**

57. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and realleges each and every allegation contained in paragraphs "1" through "56" with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.

58. Defendants issued legal process to place plaintiff FRANK BRANDON under arrest.

59. Defendants arrested plaintiff in order to obtain a collateral objective outside the legitimate ends of the legal process.

60. Defendants acted with intent to do harm to plaintiff FRANK BRANDON, without excuse or justification.

61. As a result of the foregoing, plaintiff's liberty was restricted for an extended period of time, and he was put in fear for his safety, was humiliated and subjected to handcuffing, and other physical restraints, without probable cause.

**SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF  
DENIAL OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO FAIR TRIAL  
UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 1983**

62. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and realleges each and every allegation contained in paragraphs "1" through "61" as if the same were more fully set forth at length herein.

63. Defendant created false evidence against plaintiff FRANK BRANDON.

64. Defendant forwarded false evidence and false information to prosecutors in the New York County District Attorney's office.

65. In creating false evidence against plaintiff FRANK BRANDON, in forwarding false evidence and information to prosecutors, and in providing false and misleading testimony, defendant violated plaintiff's constitutional right to a fair trial under the Due Process Clause of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution.

66. As a result of the foregoing, plaintiff's liberty was restricted for an extended period of time, and he was put in fear for his safety, was humiliated and subjected to handcuffing, and other physical restraints, without probable cause.

**SEVENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**MUNICIPAL LIABILITY**

67. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and realleges each and every allegation contained in paragraphs "1" through "66" as if the same were more fully set forth at length herein.

68. Defendants arrested and incarcerated Mr. Brandon in the absence of any evidence of criminal wrongdoing, notwithstanding their knowledge that said arrest and incarceration would jeopardize plaintiff's liberty, well-being, safety and constitutional rights.

69. The acts complained of were carried out by the aforementioned individual defendants in their capacities as police officers and officials, with all the actual and/or apparent authority attendant thereto.

70. The acts complained of were carried out by the aforementioned individual defendants in their capacities as police officers and officials pursuant to the customs, policies, usages, practices, procedures, and rules of the City of New York and the New York City Police Department, all under the supervision of ranking officers of said department.

71. The aforementioned customs, policies, usages, practices, procedures and rules of the City of New York and the New York City Police Department include, but are not limited to, the following unconstitutional practices:

- a) fabricating evidence against innocent persons erroneously arrested during buy-and-bust operations;
- b) arresting innocent persons wrongfully apprehended during buy-and-bust operations; and
- c) arresting innocent persons notwithstanding the existence of credible evidence which exonerates the accused of any criminal wrongdoing.

72. The existence of the aforesaid unconstitutional customs and policies may be inferred from repeated occurrences of similar wrongful conduct, as documented in the following

civil rights actions filed against the City of New York:

- **Frank Douglas v. City of New York**, United States District Court, Southern District of New York, 03 CV 6475;
- **Darnell Flood v. City of New York**, United States District Court, Southern District of New York, 03 CV 10313;
- **Theodore Richardson v. City of New York, et al**, United States District Court, Eastern District of New York, 02 CV 3651;
- **Phillip Stewart v. City of New York**, United States District Court, Southern District of New York, 05 CV 2375;
- **Benyamin Taylor v. City of New York**, United States District Court, Eastern District of New York, 01 CV 5750;
- **Angel Vasquez v. City of New York**, United States District Court, Eastern District of New York, 05 CV 3552;
- **Alvin Williams v. City of New York**, United States District Court, Southern District of New York, 05 CV 4013;
- **Terrance Burton v. City of New York**, United States District Court, Southern District of New York, 06 CV 6884.

73. The foregoing customs, policies, usages, practices, procedures and rules of the City of New York and the New York City Police Department constituted a deliberate indifference to the safety, well-being and constitutional rights of plaintiff FRANK BRANDON.

74. The foregoing customs, policies, usages, practices, procedures and rules of the City of New York and the New York City Police Department were the direct and proximate cause of the constitutional violations suffered by FRANK BRANDON as alleged herein.

75. The foregoing customs, policies, usages, practices, procedures and rules of the City of New York and the New York City Police Department were the moving force behind the constitutional violations suffered by plaintiff FRANK BRANDON as alleged herein.

76. As a result of the foregoing customs, policies, usages, practices, procedures and rules of the City of New York and the New York City Police Department, plaintiff FRANK BRANDON was incarcerated unlawfully for 6 days.

77. Defendants, collectively and individually, while acting under color of state law, were directly and actively involved in violating the constitutional rights of plaintiff FRANK BRANDON.

78. Defendants, collectively and individually, while acting under color of state law, acquiesced in a pattern of unconstitutional conduct by subordinate police officers, and were directly responsible for the violation of plaintiff FRANK BRANDON's constitutional rights.

79. All of the foregoing acts by defendants deprived plaintiff FRANK BRANDON of federally protected rights, including, but not limited to, the right:

- A. Not to be deprived of liberty without due process of law;
- B. To be free from seizure and arrest not based upon probable cause;
- C. To be free from unwarranted and malicious criminal prosecution;
- D. Not to have cruel and unusual punishment imposed upon him; and
- E. To receive equal protection under the law.

80. As a result of the foregoing, plaintiff FRANK BRANDON is entitled to compensatory damages in the sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) and is further entitled to punitive damages against the individual defendants in the sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00).

**WHEREFORE**, plaintiff FRANK BRANDON demands judgment in the sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) in compensatory damages, one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) in punitive damages, plus attorney's fees, costs, and disbursements of this action.

Dated: New York, New York  
October 11, 2007

BY: \_\_\_\_\_/S  
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